**Who?** All fourth grade students in Ms.Dimeo’s class  
  
**What?** In over a quarter’s length you will need to read “50 points” worth of independent (your choice) reading material. You can read almost anything you want, but the points will vary based on your reading level and the material you pick out. Here is a small scale of examples:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Piece of Literature | Range of Points |
| Novel at or slightly above level | 8-10 points |
| Novel below level ( not very challenging to read, but fun)or a re-read(only allowed once per quarter) | 5-8 points |
| Newspaper article with given write up | 3 points |
| Novel that was turned into a movie | 5-10 points ( 1 per quarter) |
| Non-Fiction Book (Has headers, Pictures, and text) | 3-5 points |
| Non-Fiction Chapter Book at or slightly above level | 8 -10 points |
| In class (assigned) novel | 5 points |

Keep in mind that it isn’t just about reading. After you finish reading your book I will have you complete a snapshot for your records and a book review. Sometimes I will give you the opportunity to do a quiz. You will not receive your reading points until this comprehension activity is complete. Reading may be done in school or out of school, but the activity must be completed at school.  
  
Note:

* Each quarter you will be given boundaries for one book selection. For example in the first quarter you will have to choose a realistic fiction novel as one of your books.
* I will also share a bonus text with you, a book that is worth 10-15 points if you choose to read it( not required).

**When?** You will read 50 points each quarter. That means you will start with a clean slate (back to zero) at the start of a new quarter.

**Where?** You will be given a minimum of ½ hour of independent reading time each day at school. Pending on how you use your time you could easily double this! In addition, I recommend that you read at least 100 minutes at home each week.

**Why?** Being a great reader and loving great literature is one of the most important life skills you will acquire in school. I want you to be exposed to a variety of texts and find the time to read some great books.

**How?**

1. Go shopping for books on your assigned day- one of your books will be a designated genre
2. Have it approved during your conference time ( you will be given an estimated point value)
3. Read and Enjoy!
4. Write a snap shot and a book review/book share
5. Turn in your materials
6. Get Points
7. Pick out new books

**Snapshots**

Snapshots are mini summaries. They let me know that you understood the basics of the book. This must be completed after each fiction and nonfiction book.

**Book Shares**

Each child has the option to complete a book share or a book review at the completion of each book. A book share is an oral book review, and each child may only do ONE a quarter.

**Book Reviews**

A book review or book share must be done at the completion of every fiction and nonfiction book. A book review is to follow the enclosed guidelines to show your understanding and enjoyment of the book. Later in the year, we will start using technology to type and share our book reviews.   
\*\* Class time will be given to complete book shares and reviews.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **What if I am waiting to have a book approved and it isn’t my day to conference with my teacher?**

Start reading immediately, I don’t want you to waste any time. You will quickly learn what you can and cannot read- chances are you already know.

1. **Who keeps track of all of this stuff?**  
   Miss DiMeo will keep track of your points in her reading binder on your reading tracking sheet. Since I meet with you every week you can always check where you are. Your parents can e-mail me whenever they want to find out where you are too!
2. **What if my points get over 50?**

Awesome!! If you hit 50 points in a quarter your first ten can be carried over to the next quarter. Also, depending on the level of your book, your extra book choices and quality of work could take you to a 3\* or 4 on your report card.

1. **Is this my reading grade?**  
   It is part of your reading grade. It shows me the level of book you are reading and helps me research what level of reader you are. Your grade will really come from the quality of work you complete after reading.

**Independent Reading Program**

Parent/Student Acknowledgement

We understand the requirements and homework requirements of the 4th grade independent reading program.  
  
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Student  
  
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Parent  
  
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Ms.DiMeo

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“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.”  
 ~ Dr.Seuss

**Paragraph 1-** INTRODUCE your book with a fun, creative and inviting lead.

~ An inviting lead may start with a question, meaningful quotation, and detailed description of your favorite scene or any other unique beginning.  
  
**Paragraph 2-** Write a Summary

~ Give your reader the “just of it”. Tell them enough to get excited, but don’t tell them too much. You want your reader to get excited about the main events without giving them the juice!  
  
**Paragraph 3-** EXTEND your thoughts

~Write about a specific part of the book that you found exciting, really interesting, or that you felt was a key element of the book. Some ideas would include: a closer look at a character, a more detailed description of the setting or time period, or presenting the other readers with more facts to get “hooked” on the book.  
  
**Paragraph 4-** Discuss your interest in the book  
~ Choose one of the following to explain:  
 Why did you choose this book? Explain.  
 What did you love about this book? Explain.  
 What didn’t you like about this book? Explain.  
 Would you read another book by this author? Explain.

**Paragraph 5-** Write a solid CLOSING that includes a reader RECOMMENDATION

~ Find a creative way to suggest who should read this book next. You do not need to pick an individual student, but try to decide what type of audience this author wrote the book for and suggest the book to that audience.